

CLAIMS:

1. A navigation tool for locating an axis on or in relation to which an orthopaedic surgery procedure is to be performed, which comprises:
 - a. a column member comprising upper and lower parts of which the lower part can be fastened to a bone, the upper part having a mating surface at its lower end which defines an upper part mating plane and the lower part having a mating surface at its upper end which defines a lower part mating plane, the upper and lower parts being connected to one another with the mating surfaces in contact with one another in such a way that the upper and lower parts can be rotated relative to one another about an axis which is perpendicular to the mating planes, the axis being non-parallel to the axes of the upper and lower parts of the column member,
 - b. a guide having an opening extending through it, which is fastened to the upper part of the column member so that it extends transversely relative to the upper part of the column member and can be moved relative to the upper part of the column member so as to change the distance between the opening and the point at which the guide is fastened to the upper part of the column member.
2. A tool as claimed in claim 1, in which the guide comprises a plate which has at least first and second openings extending through it, the distance from the point at which the plate is fastened to the upper part of the column member to the first opening being greater than the distance from the point at which the plate is fastened to the upper part of the column member to the second opening.
3. A tool as claimed in claim 2, in which the plate has a plurality of openings extending through it, arranged on a helical line around the point at which the plate is fastened to the upper part of the column member.

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4. A tool as claimed in claim 1, in which the guide can be rotated relative to the upper part of the column member, about the point at which the guide is fastened to the upper part of the column member.
5. A tool as claimed in claim 4, which includes a motor for rotating the guide relative to the upper part of the column member.
6. A tool as claimed in claim 1, which includes a motor for rotating upper part of the column member relative to the lower part of the column member.
7. A tool as claimed in claim 1, which includes a connector by which the lower part of the column member can be fastened to a bone.
8. A tool as claimed in claim 7, in which the connector permits rotation of the lower part of the column member relative to the bone, around the axis of the lower part of the column member.
9. A tool as claimed in claim 8, which includes a motor for rotating the lower part of the column member relative to the bone.
10. A tool as claimed in claim 1, which includes at least one marker by which the tool can be located relative to the patient's bone.
11. A navigation system for locating an axis on or in relation to which an orthopaedic surgery procedure is to be performed, which comprises a navigation tool as claimed in claim 1, and a cutting tool which can be used to cut the bone along an axis that is determined by the navigation tool.